



State Senator
TOM WYSS

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Indiana and Homeland Security: How Much Safer Are We?

Resources



Indiana Department
of Homeland Security
www.in.gov/dhs

Indiana State Police
www.in.gov/isp

Mustcatuck Urban Training Center
www.mutc.org

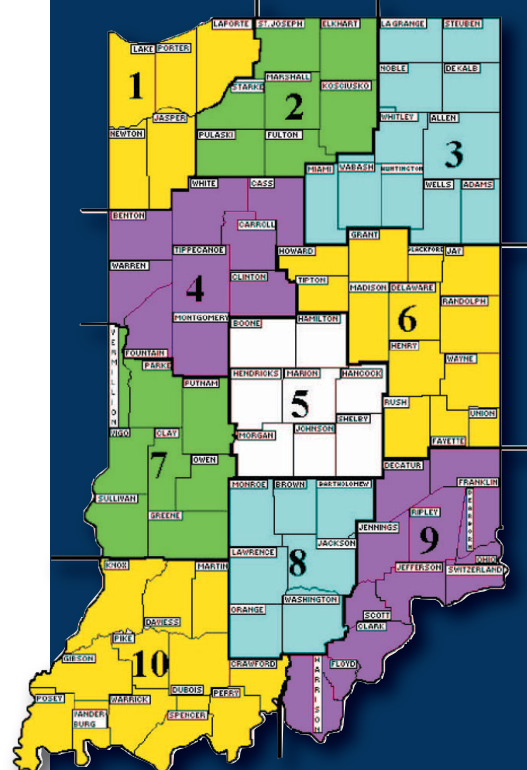
Indiana's Strategy for
Homeland Security
www.in.gov/dhs/strategic_plan.pdf

Fort Wayne/Allen County Website
www.cityoffortwayne.org

Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center
1-866-400-4432

To report any suspicious activity,
immediately call **911**

Indiana Security Regions



Wyss' Appointments

National Homeland Security Consortium
Chairman of Senate Homeland Security,
Utilities and Public Policy Committee
Indiana Counter-Terrorism & Security Council
Fort Wayne Crime Stoppers
Indiana Homeland Security Foundation



National Conference
of State Legislatures:

Executive Taskforce on Homeland Security
Executive Taskforce on Immigration
Justice Technology Advisory Group



A Special Report from
State Senator
TOM WYSS

Serving Senate District 15 in Allen County

Managing the Risk

Steps Taken to Improve the State of Homeland Security in Indiana

The premier responsibility of government and the elected officials is the health and safety of its citizens. In that context, I have a lot of my constituents asking me “Are we safer in our community?” Yes we are, and we are getting better every day.

After September 11, 2001, all of our lives were changed forever. The terrorism act in New York culminated a series of acts that showed Americans our shores were no longer our protectors against foreign threats.

Indiana responded quickly to ensure Hoosier’s safety when then Indiana Governor Frank O’Bannon created, by Executive Order, the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (CTASC). I am proud to have served as the Senate appointment to this council since its creation.

This Council consists of many state agencies involving public health and safety along with several agencies of the Federal Government. To show total State support, the Lieutenant Governor chairs CTASC.



Senator Wyss, Ft. Wayne Mayor Richard Graham, and others help break ground on the Northeast Indiana Public Safety Training Center, the first fully accessible public training center in Indiana.



An aerial view of the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Butlerville (Southeast Indiana). The training center will be available for use by federal, state and local law enforcement officials.

The purpose of the council is to coordinate all state activities with federal activities in the event of an emergency – terrorist or natural disaster – and then working together, and provide coordination with local governments. In 2002, I sponsored the legislation that statutorily made the Council permanent.

In our workings, it became obvious that understanding “all hazards, all events” was necessary to making Hoosiers safe. In other words, any disaster, natural or man-made, created similar responses by our police, fire-fighters, and other public safety workers all working together.

In addition, with the advent of terrorism, no longer were we to just be reactive with response and recovery, but now it was also prevention and detection.

Critical Legislation

In 2005, my legislation recreated our State Emergency Management Agency into

the new Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Our reorganizing and added focus for other than natural disaster responses was enhanced. We now have a fully functional and expertly staffed organization that can not only respond, but more importantly function with the prevention and detection responsibility also.

In the 2006 session, my legislation created the new Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center as a part of the Department of Homeland Security.

This intelligence gathering agency will be staffed with analysts and individuals to assist in identifying to local agencies threats and criminal involvement across Indiana. Resources mean that local, state and federal information can and will be shared. This is the only routinely integrating function between the various levels of law enforcement.

Indiana also has created 10 districts across our state common to multiple agencies of state government. More and more agencies will come on board inclusive to the dis-

tricts as time goes on. This is a tremendous change and is directed toward promoting co-operation between the counties in each district.

Although “all disasters are local”, mutual aid and borderless communities are a great asset in helping each other in an emergency. Additionally, districts will provide more efficient operations by reducing the need for procurement and maintenance of “specialty equipment in every emergency operation within the district.

New training support will also now be available through the state DHS for key fire skills within the departments throughout Indiana. Similarly, DHS has set up a funding mechanism to help support local governments and to allow Federal FEMA reimbursements in large emergencies.

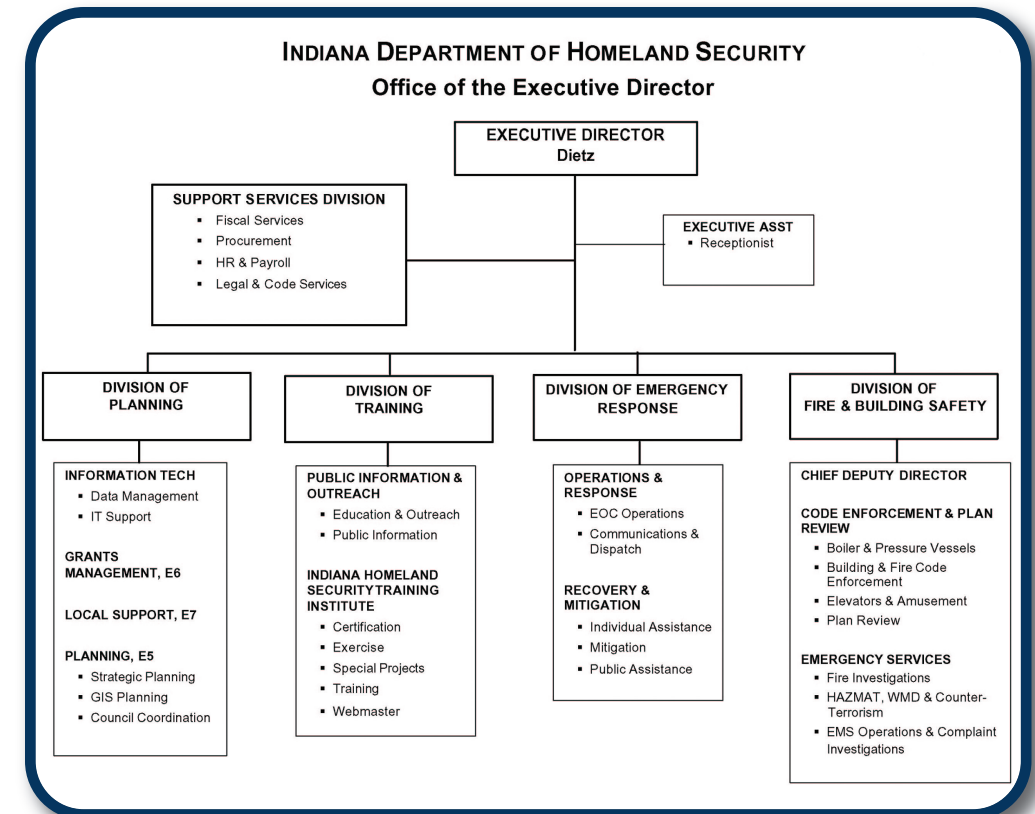
Indiana also acquired a valuable tool in the training necessities of our public safety personnel in the creation of the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. This was previously a state hospital that was going to be demolished.

With all of the infrastructure and facilities it is a small city like setting that will now be used by not only Indiana personnel, but military and federal officers also in their quest for training necessary in today’s urban emergency needs.

The Safety of Allen County

Although Indiana still has needs that must be addressed, and they are important to many communities, I want to assure you that Fort Wayne and Allen County are in excellent positions of ensuring your safety and that of your families.

We have one of the best – if not the best – Emergency Management Directors in Indiana. Bernie Beier has the reputation and skills recognized by both state and federal officials as outstanding in his field! The satisfaction that I have in this is that Fort Wayne Officials and Allen County Officials recognized his attributes and partnered to make his position possible.



When all levels of government works together, citizens win!

Also for your comfort factor and confidence in where we are headed to protect the citizenry in our community, we have under construction the new Northeast Indiana Public Safety Training Center at Southtown Mall. This was a concept of Mayor Graham Richard that will soon be a reality.

Again for all of us in this area, this Center will be the model for the other nine districts in Indiana and nationally, showing what we in Fort Wayne, Allen County, and Indiana government can do well when we put our minds and efforts together as a team!

Securing the Capitol

We recently issued ID cards for all state employees. These cards are coded and eventually will only allow access to points on our campus where the individual has a need to be or work.

In addition, we will have cameras at each entrance to the Statehouse, including the tunnels into the basement of the statehouse. Our efforts are not just to protect elected officials and judicial officers, but most importantly, the employees who are there on a daily basis.

All of our efforts are a part of teamwork between federal, state, and local governments. Our thrust is to have a “two-way” communication and operation.

Teamwork is much more than winning sporting events. In our case it will result in a safer environment, preparedness for a disaster – natural or otherwise – and enable Hoosiers to be comfortable that everything is being done to protect the people.

Thanks for reading!

Regards,

Senator Tom Wyss